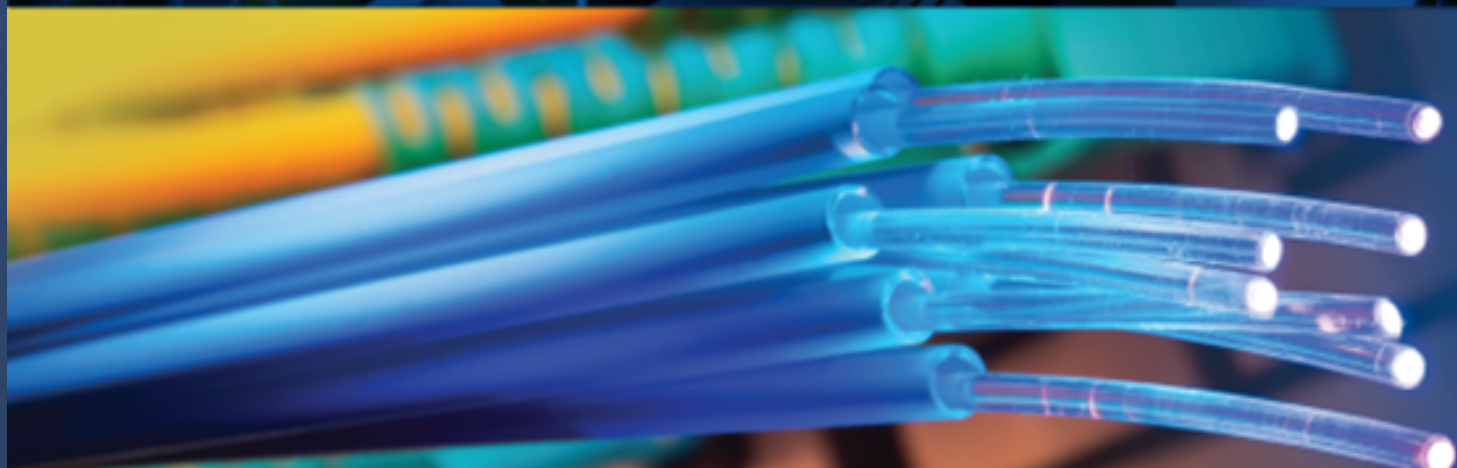




Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Webinar



BroadbandOhio

Reminders

- Webinar is being recorded
- Questions: Type questions into the Chat feature of Microsoft teams. If your question is not addressed on today's webinar, it will be posted in the FAQ document on the website.

Webinar Agenda

Monday, August 23, 2021

- Background information on BroadbandOhio
- Background information on the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program
- Review of websites
- Review of application process, application, and important application documents
- Review of timeline
- Question and Answer Session

BroadbandOhio Background

- Created by the DeWine-Husted Administration in March 2020
- BroadbandOhio Office is part of the Ohio Department of Development
- BroadbandOhio is dedicated to improving access to high-speed internet access to the people and areas of Ohio who are unserved and underserved.

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Background

- House Bill 2 of the 134th General Assembly created the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Program.
- Created to help internet service providers offset the cost of expanding into areas that lack service.
- The program is designed to assist with the infrastructure costs of the project and help build the networks that will otherwise serve Ohioans who currently cannot participate in the modern economy because of a lack of high-speed internet.

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Background

- The broadband funding gap is the difference between the actual cost of building the infrastructure for the network and the amount of money the applicant can afford to spend to build the infrastructure for the network and still make a profit.

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Authority

- Created by House Bill 2, the Program Authority oversees the grant.
- The Ohio Department of Development staffs the authority and performs tasks such as receiving and reviewing applications.
- The authority scores and approves applications for the grant and consists of five members:
 - The Director of Development, or designee
 - The director of InnovateOhio, or designee
 - One member appointed by the Governor of Ohio
 - One member appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House
 - One member appointed by the Ohio Senate President

Application Requirements

- Eligible Applicants: Providers
- A broadband provider means one of the following:
 - A video service provider as defined in section 1332.21 of the Revised Code;
 - A provider that can provide tier one or tier two broadband service and is one of the following:
 - A telecommunications service provider;
 - A satellite broadcasting service provider;
 - A wireless service provider

Application Requirements

- Eligible Projects: are projects that will provide service access of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to residences in areas that do not have a provider that can supply that speed.

Funding

- No limits on the amount of funding that a provider/project can ask for.

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Website

- Information on BroadbandOhio, the Program Authority, application process, guidebook, timeline and important dates, and links to the application can be found at:
- <https://development.ohio.gov/bs/orbegp.htm>

Application Guide

- The guidebook can be found at <https://development.ohio.gov/bs/orbegp.htm>
- The guidebook is provided to help broadband providers understand the application process and the requirements of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant program.
- Contents of the guidebook include; Grant timeline, grant information, contact information, application processes, and a review and explanation of each section of the application.

Application Process

- 1. Online Application via the Department of Development website
<https://development.force.com/ODSA/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2FODSA%2Fs%2Forbg>
- 2. Paper application via certified mail
- 3. Electronic Mail
- 4. In person submission

Application Process

- 1. Online Application via the Department of Development website
<https://development.force.com/ODSA/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2FODSA%2Fs%2Forbg>
- Click link from grant program website.
- Applicant will need to register as a member, if you do not already have a username and password for the website.
- Applicant will need to register with a working email
 - Under the log in button, click “not a member” to register.
 - Further instruction on signing in will be sent to the registered email address

Application Process

- The link to the paper application can be found at
<https://development.ohio.gov/bs/orbegp.htm>
- Left side of the webpage: Application (PDF)
- The content of the application is the same as it is online, just in paper form.
- Can supplement responses with additional pages, as necessary.
- Paper applications- Certified Mail to
Ohio Development Services Agency
Office of BroadbandOhio
ATTN: Amy Elbaor, Deputy Chief of Grants and
Special Projects
77 South High Street, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Application Process

- Paper applications- Certified Mail to
Ohio Development Services Agency
Office of BroadbandOhio
ATTN: Amy Elbaor, Deputy Chief of
Grants and Special Projects
77 South High Street, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
- In-person submissions will need to be dropped off at the above address. Please be mindful that the Riffe Building operates under normal business hours, and requires multiple security checks to get into the building. Please call ahead before traveling to the Riffe Building to make sure you will be able to access the building.
- Electronic Mail-
Amy.Elbaor@development.ohio.gov

Review of Online Application

- <https://development.force.com/ODSA/s/orbg>

Timeline

- Application and Scoring Criteria Posted: August 6, 2021
- Application submission period opens: September 6, 2021
- Application Deadline: **November 8, by 5:00 p.m.**
- Deadline to Refile an Incomplete Application 14 days after application deadline
- Application Challenge Deadline: January 13, 2022 by 5:00 p.m.
- Deadline to Refile Suspended Application: 14 days after application suspended
- Application Review Period: Up to 30 days
- Award Announcement: Up to 30 days

Application Review Process

- Development will evaluate the information and documents submitted.
- If an application is incomplete, Development will provide notice to the broadband provider, listing what information is incomplete, and provide the guidelines for a procedure to refile a completed application. If an application is determined to be incomplete after the application period has closed, a provider may ask for an extension to refile the application and must provide good cause.
- Incomplete applications that are not refiled will be rejected and not scored by the grant authority.

Application Challenge Process

- Broadband Grant applications may be challenged in writing by a broadband provider on specific grounds after an application is published on Development's website, but not later than 65 days after the submission period closes.
- A broadband provider whose application is suspended based on a successful challenge is permitted to revise and resubmit the provider's application to the Authority within 14 days of being notified that their application was suspended.
- Failure to revise and resubmit the application with the successfully challenged addresses removed may result in the rejection of the entire application.

Application Scoring Process

- Development and the Authority have established a weighted scoring system to evaluate and select applications for program grants.
- Applications will be prioritized, from highest to lowest, based on specific criteria, and the Authority will score applications and provide awards to broadband providers based on the scoring system.

Award Process

- Prior to the start of a project, the Authority may require a broadband provider that is awarded a program grant to provide acceptable financial assurances, including a performance bond, letter of credit, or other assurance acceptable to the authority.
- After receiving an award, the broadband provider must construct and install last mile broadband infrastructure to the eligible project in accordance with the application presented by the broadband provider.

Award Process

- Grant program awards are disbursed incrementally, with up to 30% disbursed before construction of the project begins, up to 60% disbursed through periodic payments over the course of construction, and the remaining grant amount disbursed within 60 days after the project is complete.
- The projected start date for the project will be mutually agreed to between the Authority and the broadband provider.

Reporting and Compliance

- Grant awardees are required to submit an Annual Progress Report each year on a date designated by the authority during the construction project.
- Grant awardees will be required to submit an Operational Report within 60 days, and for four years thereafter, once the project is completed.
- If Development determines that a project is non-compliant, Development will give the broadband provider an opportunity to explain and cure the non-compliance, or else may provide a refund of grant award funds.

Review of Important Dates

- Application and Scoring Criteria Posted:
Currently Posted on website.
- Applications Submission Period Opens:
Monday, September 6, 2021
- Application Deadline: **Monday, November 8, 2021, by 5pm.**
 - **By 5pm: In the application portal, in-person, and delivered via email.**
 - **Mailed applications must be received by BroadbandOhio on November 8.**

Questions and Answers

- Question and Answers
- The Frequently Asked Question document will be a document that will be continuously updated throughout the application process and will be posted on the grant website.